



DEPAUW UNIVERSITY

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Dear Mr. Petalas,

My name is Victoria Houghtalen. Perkins Coie LLP recently filed an advisory opinion with you and your board on my behalf. They have been working diligently over the past couple of months to ensure that, upon your decision, interns for presidential campaigns may receive university credit and grants to work towards their political aspirations.

I would like to emphasize the importance of this advisory opinion not for the success of political candidates, but for the success of the students working for them. I fell in love with politics in the 8th grade. The year was 2009; I began learning about the formation of our government in tandem to President Barack Obama's first year in office. Everything clicked for me. I knew from that year forward that civic participation was not only something I wanted to practice, but an essential part of our democratic system that I wanted to increase among the electorate.

In high school, I started to expand my political opportunities. I debated domestic policy on the school's speech team, I interned in my city's mayor's office, and I attended a mock-government summer camp called Hoosier Girls State. I never thought I would be able to attend a private university, as my family's financial situation was not in a sound condition throughout my teen years. But with the enormous help of academic scholarships, I secured a place in the class of 2018 at DePauw University.

My world turned upside down when I was accepted into the internship program at Hillary for America. A small-town girl from Indiana received what felt like a big break from Hollywood. Unfortunately, this new world shattered when the campaign informed me that because the Federal Election Campaign Act, I would not be able to use a 3,000 dollar grant from DePauw's Hubbard Center to alleviate the financial stress of moving to New York City. My family came to the realization that we would have to come up with almost 5,000 dollars on our own: no easy feat when reflecting over the financial anxiety we have had to endure. I thought I would have to decline the internship offer. It became evident that I would not be able to easily accept the one chance I had to move into new opportunities. My family, because they support my endeavors, reluctantly took out more loans in order to afford my opportunity to attend.

Mr. Petalas, there are so many students within the United States who have the capacity to perform in presidential campaign environments who will not be able to because of financial limitations. Universities have done tremendous work with this dilemma by creating grant funding opportunities for unpaid interns so that students of all backgrounds may pursue their dreams. About 46.5 percent of internships were unpaid for the class of 2014, according to the National Association of Colleges and Employers report. Nearly half of internship opportunities are unpaid; it is not an uncommon practice. But limiting the funds of students to attend these unpaid internships is rare. Today, I am asking you to no longer limit those funds to students like me.

I want the board to vote yes on this advisory opinion. I want a yes so that my family can be alleviated from some of our financial stress, but moreover I want a yes for all future families. My experience with the campaign was invaluable to me. I can't imagine the number of students with full-potential who may have to turn down their big break in the future. You have the capacity to prevent this. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to the results of the opinion.

With sincerity,

Victoria Houghtalen